

REVOLUTION

socialist youth movement

30P / DONATION

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WAR OF TERROR = WAR OF CONQUEST



Women still have more to worry about than men when it gets to that time of the month... pay day

Women face a lot of suffering in society: objectified in advertising, sexually harassed, shackled by childcare and underpaid. We are always told that the differences between men and women are something natural, something that women should put up with because there's nothing that can be done. Sure, women might get a harder time but it's no one's fault; it's just the way things are.

It is the way things are, but things are appalling. A report by the Women and Work Commission (WWC) in February found that women were paid on average 17% less than men in full time work and 38% less in part time work. The report gives two reasons for this: women make the 'wrong' career choices early in life and women get stuck in low paid or part time jobs after they have children.

The reason that women make the 'wrong' career choice early in life can be put down to how women in education are pushed into certain career paths. The WWC found that women in schools were being advised to drop subjects which lead to better jobs without any warning of the consequences by careers advisors.

You can see how education and career advice encourage and accentuate the pay gap through looking at the gender balance in apprenticeships of different subjects. The Equal Opportunities Commission's figures show a trend in apprenticeships where as the weekly pay decreases, the number of women taking the apprenticeship increases. For example, women make up 97% and 93% of apprentices in courses in early years education and hairdressing respectively. Hairdressing apprentices earn an average of £90 per week and early years apprentices earn an average of £95 a week. On the other end of the scale for apprenticeships are the highest paying electro-technical and engineering courses pay £183 and £167 per week and are made up of 100% men and 99% men respectively. Whilst all of these rates of pay are low, the gap in pay is established early on in people's working lives.

So, the 'wrong' choices that people make are encouraged by schooling and 'norms' of behaviour that women are expected to conform to and aren't natural. But does the WWC's finding that having children is a reason for the pay gap mean that women's oppression in the workplace is 'natural'?

People use the argument that women giving birth is a natural process to justify the pay gap and the double burden that women have: unpaid housework and low paid employment.

Whilst giving birth is a perfectly natural thing the argument that this makes women's oppression natural is misleading. By the same logic contraception is wrong because it interferes in a natural process, flying should be left to the birds and we shouldn't manufacture medicine. The point is not that humans must conform to everything

handed down in biology and nature but that the development of technology and production means that our fates are taken further away from forces of nature and into our own hands.

We're not so primitive that our lives and what happens in them are alien to us and can't be acted on.

One of the ways we have of breaking away from the restrictions placed on us by biology is through changing childcare from being something forced on women, that they must pursue as isolated individuals into something done collectively in order to liberate women. Giving them more time, more opportunities to live a fuller life and leaving them doing less work.

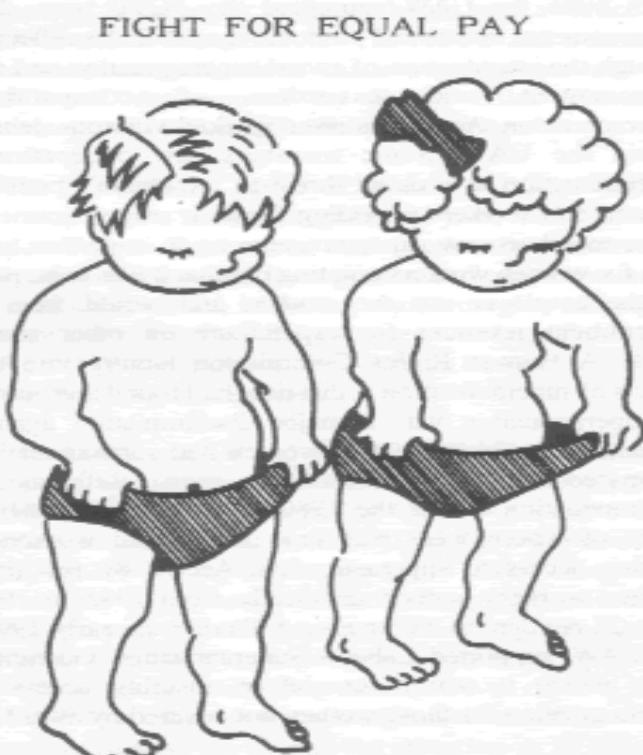
Under capitalism this means that we have to fight for free childcare for all parents and for an end to the discrimination of women at work who have to take maternity leave and of men taking paternity leave.

But there is a problem. Women's oppression is a crucial part of capitalism. The fact is that the bosses make more money if the feeding, clothing and basic education of children is done as unpaid work by women. They make more money by women with children having less choice in employment and having to go for lower paid, part time jobs because they're the only ones that allow time to raise children.

Capitalism relies on a family structure that causes oppression and suffering to those who are in it. Low pay for women means poverty for the whole family. Women having to stay at home to look after children means they are left isolated from other people in society. And the oppression in the family is also the root of homophobia and youth oppression.

That's why as socialists we're for the abolition of the capitalist family model. This doesn't mean that we want to snatch away people's babies but in order to end women's oppression childcare must be provided socially for the good of parents and children. We're not just against the family because parents can be a pain either, the capitalist family is part of the capitalist system of exploitation. Its job is to bring up young people to best allow that exploitation to take place. Like the roles of the family, the process of production must be taken into the hands of society as a whole so that people are neither subordinated to forces of biology out of their control or to the out of control market.

Jo C and Josh D



Homophobia

in Eastern Europe

For those of us in Western Europe Gay Pride festivals have become an annual event we're accustomed to. Every summer a parade of brightly coloured members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community march through our city centres. However, in contrast to this the experiences faced by our LGBT brothers and sisters in Eastern Europe would leave the flouncing queen stereotype a whiter shade of pale.

"As the [gay] community becomes more visible, formulates political demands and engages in public debate, the right-wing and religious fundamentalists

into them being criminalized when they are in fact victims of aggression. The LGBT community of Russia is effectively being told not to make a fuss, to stop being so flamboyant and not to make a shibboleth of the issue! The principle of "live and let live" equates to know your place or else skinheads will beat the crap out of you and the government will do nothing to stop this. "The Russian authorities, especially the police, seem to ignore the widespread violence against gays," says Nikolai Bayev. "There are no official statistics about gays murdered in our country. And I know lots of cases like this."

people is the result of the reactionary policies of Stalin who re-criminalized homosexuality. Now the bosses and their governments in Eastern European countries use gay people as a scapegoat for the rampant poverty and dilapidation of public services after the reintroduction of capitalism. "If crime is high, and the social and economic situation desperate, the police need to be seen to be doing something. LGBTs are easy to find and target, when really they need to target fraud or bootlegging." Says Sarah Green of Amnesty.

Whilst protection is nominally offered to LGBT people under the European Convention on Human Rights these pieces of paper mean less than nothing on the ground. A Russian LGBT campaigner describes a situation mirrored throughout Eastern Europe: "No Russian political party dares to support the LGBT community," says Bayev. "No democratic or liberal politician is openly gay-friendly. They are afraid they'll be regarded as 'faggots' themselves and lose votes." Clearly the craven politicians of the parliaments throughout Eastern Europe - who care for nothing else but votes, elections and representing rabid exploiters with a sense of 'family values' - cannot be relied upon to protect the rights of minorities.

Against this institutionalised homophobia and harassment, what is to be done? Will the LGBT communities of Eastern Europe achieve liberation and freedom through copying the consumerist attitude and ghetto mentality of the 'movement' in the West? Or, like the Gay Liberation Front of the 70s, do we need an organised, fighting group of militants to join in solidarity with other exploited groups against our common enemy: Capitalism! The fight for gay rights in Eastern Europe requires the same things to secure a victory against homophobia as it does everywhere: solidarity with gay people worldwide and with other oppressed groups; a militant response to homophobia drawing in workers organizations and demanding them to take an anti-homophobic stance; and most importantly and analysis that sees the roots of the oppression of LGBT people as lying in the family model under capitalism and therefore with capitalism itself. Only with the overthrow of the oppression of capital - where bosses seek to divide us with homophobia, sexism, and racism - will true and permanent freedom be a possibility for everyone.



become more aggressive in fighting back," says Maxim Anmeghichean, programmes director of the European Region of the International Lesbian and Gay Association. "Visibility causes even more homophobia and direct attacks on you." One example among many is the case of Serbia's first "and only" Gay Pride Parade in 2001 where marchers were viciously beaten by thugs and the police.

This hatred towards the gay community continues up throughout the respectable persons of government in a more subtle, though no less dangerous form. In response to a proposed Gay Pride Parade this year in Moscow the chairwoman of the City Council's security commission, Inna Svyatenko, said that nobody in the city would be prepared to take responsibility for "artificially provoking disorder". Such a callous remark towards an oppressed group translates

Along with police's disregard for the violated rights of the LBGT community openly gay people suffer discrimination across the spectrum of social life. A 2001 survey conducted by the Slovenian association SKUC LL found that 66.9% of respondents had suffered harassment at work on account of their sexuality. In light of this systemic prejudice and

persecution condoned by the authorities it is imperative that Gay Pride marches take place to assert the right of oppressed minorities.

The June Edition of Gay Times made the statement that "LGBT people were demonised by Communism, which put great emphasis on community." This is a gross smear and injustice to the October Revolution in 1917 after which the Bolsheviks legalised homosexuality - the first government in the world to do so. The continued demonisation of LGBT

DEFEAT ISRAEL'S WAR OF

For a month Israel has waged a brutal war

On the Sunday 30th July as part of its huge military offensive against Lebanon the Israeli army dropped a single massive bomb on the town of Qana killing over 50 innocent civilians who were sheltering for cover in the basement of residential apartments that were destroyed. The Israeli response was a disdainful 'we told you to leave your homes'. And so they had. The Israeli's had issued a 'warning' to every citizen of southern Lebanon to get out or face the consequences.

This was nothing less than a call for ethnic cleansing. And the Israeli's got their way with the United Nations estimating that between 500,000 and 700,000 Lebanese people have been displaced and in need of emergency relief.

As the country faces a humanitarian disaster of huge proportions the bombs continued to fall despite promises by Israel and the US state department of a 48 hour ceasefire following the Qana massacre.

Far from scaling down the offensive Israel has stepped it up; calling up 6,000 army reservists and steadily moving ground forces into the south. However, despite over three weeks of fighting and this horrific aerial bombardment the Lebanese, "Islamic Resistance" guerrilla fighters, linked to Hezbollah, have held the line and prevented Israel forces from going more than a few kilometres into the south. Now it is making a more serious push north and east to try to surround and encircle the resistance

Plans for a greater Israel

The Ariel Sharon government in Israel came to power promising a lasting peace on 'Israeli terms' and brought about by using overwhelmingly military force. It was

in principle in favour of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza and supported the dismantling of Israeli settlements in Gaza undertaken by the previous government. However, at the same time it redrew Israel's borders annexing whole swathes of land in the West Bank and began the construction of the Apartheid Wall.

Throughout the peace process of the last fifteen years it was clear that any new so called 'Palestinian State' would be completely militarily and economically subordinate to Israel with no control over its borders and resembling a patch work quilt of disconnected impoverished cities, under Israeli Defence Force encirclement. The plan enforced by Sharon and his chosen successor Ehud Olmert, who leads the new Kadima-Labour coalition government, takes this one step further in that it has actually brought sections of the occupied territories formally into the Israeli state.

The Palestinians have resisted this brutal occupation for nearly fifty years. Historically this resistance was led by Fatah and the PLO, but many Palestinians have grown disillusioned with them because of their concessions to Israel during the 'peace process' and the corruption of their government officials.

This led to the radical Islamist group Hamas winning the last Palestinian legislative elections in January. The Kadima-Labour government has refused to recognise the new Palestinian administration and is determined to crush Hamas and Islamic Jihad (the other main resistance force) through military force.

The attack on Lebanon has to be seen in this context of a drive for a greater Israel that militarily defeats the forces opposing it

(Hezbollah, Hamas, Islamic Jihad) and secures Israel's military, political and economic dominance over the region. Their aim is to turn Lebanon into a weak disarmed buffer state similar to Jordan while to the south the US will do everything to defend its client dictatorship in Egypt.

The US gives Egypt some \$1.3 billion a year in military aid since 1979, and an average of \$815 million a year in economic assistance. All told, Egypt has received over \$50 billion since 1975. If Lebanon becomes an Israel friendly state the Palestinians will be cut off from all support and, the Zionists and the Americans hope, forced to accept any terms for a settlement the former chose to offer. In practice it would mean national annihilation for the Palestinians since any state they were offered would be fragmented, disarmed and economically dependent on Israel.

A racist apartheid state

The forced expulsion of Arabs that we have seen in Lebanon is not a new policy for the Israeli ruling class but one on which the very Israeli state was founded. Israel was created between 1947 and 1948 on the backs of the expulsion of between 500 000 - 800 000 Palestinians.

Israel's racist laws allow a Jewish person from any corner of the globe to settle in Israel but deny that same right to the Palestinian refugees previously expelled. Israel to sustain an artificial majority of Jews thus ensuring an exclusive, racist, apartheid state. Meanwhile, its tanks police the refugee camps of the occupied territories that hold 1.3 million descendants of the expelled with tens of thousands more living in neighbouring Arab states including Lebanon.

Proxy of US imperialism

Each year Israel receives huge sums in economic and military aid from the United States. In 2006 this came to a colossal \$2.6 billion mainly in the form of military aid. This direct injection of funds comes on top of loan guarantees that come to some 10 billion dollars a year. Without this injection of money Israel would not be able to sustain its huge military capability that completely outstrips every other power in the region. Indeed Israel has the fourth largest army in the world.

But what does the United States get in return? It gets a proxy military force with which to enforce its economic, political and foreign policy in the Middle East. As the



TERROR AGAINST LEBANON

the people of Lebanon. Here's what we say:

wars in Iraq and Afghanistan arouse the indignation of the Arab masses forcing their leaders into a more anti-American stance, the US becomes ever more dependent on Israel as the only dependable ally it has in the region.

War on Terror

The terrorist attacks of September 11th gave US imperialism the excuse to go on an offensive to secure its hegemony over the world's people. The unstable Middle East, rich in oil reserves but increasingly hostile to US power had to be tamed. This led to the brutal wars in Afghanistan and then Iraq. It led to the 'peace process' enforced down the barrel of a gun in Palestine. And, now it means the scorched earth policy for the people of Lebanon.

The invasion of Lebanon marks a beginning of a new phase of intensified conflict. It is an act of desperation arising from the failure to pacify Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine under pro-US regimes. The US and Israel had hoped that the 'Cedar Revolution' that led to the end of Syrian occupation of Lebanon in 2005 would mean the beginning of the end for the Hezbollah resistance fighters in the south but instead their hold has been consolidated, even winning seats in the new government.

The kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah gave a pretext to the latest invasion. Like the terrorist attacks on September 11th 2001 it gave imperialism an excuse to trigger the long a long conceived plan. The Israelis don't like to point out that they have thousands of Hezbollah militants held in their jails and in the past have exchanged them for captured Israeli soldiers (as Hezbollah has demanded in this case).

Victory to the resistance!

Israel has invaded and occupied southern Lebanon three times in 1978, 1982 and again in 1996. Hezbollah developed as a guerrilla resistance army to these invasions and the occupations that followed. In the latter two cases it eventually drove out the Israeli occupiers by inflicting heavy casualties on them and convincing them they could never subdue Lebanon. Now they are doing it for a third time. Hezbollah is an Islamist party, committed in its programme to installing an Islamic republic based on Sharia law. Surely revolutionary socialist youth cannot be in favour of this? Indeed not.

We defend a fully secular and democratic state that gives equal rights to women, all religions and nationalities - these are rights that are expected even in most capitalist countries but which Israel's role means it won't guarantee. In fighting for the defeat of Israel we don't drop our fight for socialism, which will extend democratic rights, but show through our solidarity in struggle that we have a common goal with those who are also in struggle and use this position of standing side by side with those in the movement to criticise the wrong and reactionary course presented by its' leaders. Thus we will fight against any attempts to create a state based on religious law - which enshrines inequality between men and women, discriminates against religious minorities, and lays the basis for bigotry and persecution. In Lebanon, a state of minorities, nay attempt to create a confessional state would lead to a nightmarish civil war.

Nevertheless, despite its reactionary politics we support Hezbollah and the Islamic

Resistance's fight to drive the Israeli invaders out of Lebanon. Why? Because it is a justified war of national defence against the Zionist state and its US imperialist backers, a war in solidarity with the Palestinian people, also being starved and ethnically cleansed in Gaza and the West Bank. We believe that all socialists should support and as far as is possible participate in the struggle to drive out Israel, alongside the Hezbollah fighters.

In short, wherever there is a fight to drive out the Israelis and the United States and UK occupiers (in Iraq, in Afghanistan) socialists must participate in an anti-imperialist united front. This does not mean for one minute dropping our criticism of the Islamists reactionary social and political objectives. Certainly we do not want to see them seize power. However, unless working class forces participate fully in the struggle against imperialism and indeed come to the head of the struggle, then Islamic republics are the most likely outcome of the struggles now underway - that or the defeat of the movement by imperialism and its agents.

Anti-imperialists, anti-capitalists, worldwide must rally to the struggle to defeat the US and UK and their Zionist agency in the Middle East and Central Asia are the modern Vietnam War. Imperialism has launched its "endless war" to seize the enormous wealth, its huge oil reserves, and in order to convince the oppressed and exploited worldwide that there is no alternative but submission to global capitalism and the United States as a self appointed world policeman.

Yet Hezbollah, the Palestinian and Iraqi resistance and the antiwar movement around the world have shown this is a pack of lies. Imperialism can be resisted. It can be defeated. It can be overthrown. To do the latter - so that these "endless" wars can come to an end - we need a worldwide movement, a worldwide organisation to coordinate the fightback and go onto the offensive.

That is why we in Revolution are fighting to unite young people worldwide in a revolutionary Youth International and the working class in a new party of social revolution - a Fifth International. Join us in this struggle.

**Statement of the Revolution International Council,
August 2006**

REVOLUTION 5



100,000 demonstrated against Israel's war on Lebanon in London on August 5

Afghanistan: resistance grows to the hated occupation

Four years after liberation the war still rages in Afghanistan, says John B from Leeds

With the recent killing of 37 Taliban soldiers in June this year and the death of 6 British troops in the last month, it is clear that Afghanistan is still in violent turmoil almost five years since the invasion started in October 2001. The recent upsurge in violence has led to British commanders in the country to request more troops to be sent as a matter of urgency and mainstream media sources have reported that the country's militia groups amount to at least 125,000. The rock-bottom economic situation has also had an effect on recent violence with the consequential growth of the opium trade as jobs become close to impossible to find colliding with US and UK efforts to conduct a 'war on drugs'.

However, it is not just the drugs industry which is causing conflict in Afghanistan, it is also the political disillusionment which mainstream media sources tend to downplay. The parliamentary and provincial elections last September had an appalling turnout, compared to an enthusiastic turnout of 75% at the last presidential election, with voters now realising that there is no such thing as democracy under military occupation as the country remains devastated after the war. There have also been riots in Kabul as an American truck drove down a hill with an alleged brake failure destroying civilian cars. The troops responded to a spontaneous protest from residents by opening fire on the crowd killing at least 20 people, sparking larger riots and the burning of police check points. Protesters were also angry about the less well known event in the Helmand province where an US air strike killed 16 civilians in what has been coined 'collateral

damage' by the media. So much for winning 'hearts and minds'! Whatever we read in the mainstream news, a bit of research shows there is much more to the current upsurge in violence than the drugs industry.

Afghanistan shows that imperialism is never progressive and acts as destabilising force which can keep entire nations impoverished and oppressed. Desperate people seek desperate solutions and as a consequence, from Palestine to Iraq to Afghanistan, the populations are turning their heads to the forces which are attractive because of their militant opposition to imperialism but which are anti working class and often sexist and homophobic, whether that be Al Quaida, Hamas, or the Taliban in Afghanistan who the population was supposedly liberated from by the invasion.

What Afghanistan also shows is that after imperialist occupation, the situation does not just improve with time. Discontentment can fester and grow as the imperialists use opposition to their rule to justify more troops, stricter control and the further restriction of people's freedoms.

We shouldn't listen to Blair and Co when they say that the role of troops in Afghanistan is for Afghan and international security and human rights. What the occupation of Afghanistan (like Iraq) is about is control of natural resources and strategic positions by the US and other imperialist powers. The removal of parasitic imperialism would be a cause for hope for all those battling against it and any of its aspects, that's why we support the resistance.



Sarkozy: "I'm not racist but..."

Scourge of the French anti-neoliberal movement Nicholas Sarkozy recently surprised journalists when he announced it would be wrong and dangerous to have a zero immigration policy.

Sarkozy's become notorious in the last year over his stance on immigration. Last November during the riots that spread to suburbs of towns across France sparked by racist policing and fuelled by years of state racism and poverty Sarkozy described the rioters (mostly immigrants, and people of African or Arab decent) as "scum". He later used the riots as an excuse to push through a series of deportations. He oversaw the brutal policing of the movement of workers, students and immigrants against the CPE labour law this spring. And this summer he made it his aim to deport immigrant school chil-

dren and their families.

Although Sarkozy is talking soft the policies he carries out and seeks to carry out are still just as cruel and degrading.

He doesn't want an immigration policy based on saying that people should be able to cross borders if they want to and should be free to seek an alternative to poverty and persecution. He aims to hand pick immigrants based on the skills they have and the gaps in the French labour market.

This has two implications. Firstly it means that immigrants are effectively being used as people to do jobs that no one born in France is willing to do. This creates a two-tier workforce and is something that can also be used to try to hinder action by the native French working class: if they go on strike then unorganised migrant labour can be used

by the bosses.

Secondly, it creates a skills gap in the countries that migrants come from further subordinating those countries to the interests of French capital. Sarkozy's call for helping the development of countries that immigrants come from should also be seen as a cynical move to allow French businesses to take more of a hold on foreign markets, 'redevelopment' being a neoliberal buzzword for privatisation.

All of this points to France's parasitic role in the world and to the cruelty and suffering that it inflicts. But it isn't just France. Britain, Germany, the US and the other leading powers in the world can be best understood as imperialist: they exploit the working class in their own country but subordinate other countries to an even greater degree of exploitation. In doing this the interests of

their business takes a huge role in determining the development of imperialised countries' development and the lives of people in them.

Imperialism is inherently racist. It means that countries benefit from the systematic domination of other countries and this reflects itself in the ideas in society.

The French working class and youth must take the side of immigrants in France and against the government and bosses that exploit both groups of people. If the French working class scores a victory against racist immigration policies and fights for the right of anyone to move freely across borders then it will be an enormous victory for international solidarity and workers' rights.

Josh D. Manchester

REVOLUTION 6

Reviews Page

BRADFORD RIOTS CHANNEL 4/DVD

Prior to last year's bombings, the date of July 7th meant little to most people in the UK. However, for the city of Bradford July 7th marks the day in 2001 when members of the National Front and British National Party came to town, with the express intention of attacking the local Asian community as they had done in Oldham and Burnley in previous weeks. During the afternoon an evening of that day the Asian community was attacked, first by the thugs of the NF and BNP, and then by the hordes of heavily armed police already deployed across the city.

On the night of this year's local elections, May 4th, Channel 4 screened a dramatization of the events leading up to following on from the riots. *Bradford Riots* has subsequently been released on DVD.

I was surprised to see what I thought was quite an accurate portrayal of what took place. Whilst the makers didn't really seek to make any political points out of what happened, they did at the very least, completely distance themselves from the popular media portrayal of what happened.

Having lived in Bradford at the time of the riots, one of things I remember very clearly was the feeling of tension that built up in the city during the week running up to July 7th. The docudrama was particularly apt in the way that it showed this tension prior to the riots.

The National Front had their march banned by the police two weeks earlier, however this was of little consequence, with word quickly spreading around the city that they intended to break the ban, and turn up anyway. The tension was further ratcheted up by the fact that the police had banned not only the NF demo, but also the annual Mela in Lister Park, the highlight of the Bradford Festival and a showcase of Asian culture from around Yorkshire.

The most shocking part of the programme (and one that was accurate) covered events outside The Empress pub on Broadway in the City Centre. At 2pm on July 7th police ordered a section 14 and drove Asian youth and ANL activists out of Centenary Square. As an isolated group of young Asian men passed The Empress a group of NF stormed out, kicking one man to the floor and attacking him with broken bottles. Nearby police officers acted only to hold



back the other Asian men from defending their friend, and then stepped in to arrest the casualty. It was this attack that triggered the other people being driven out of the city centre to run to the defence of their friends, and as they did so, a full scale police attack was launched and police stormed up White Abbey road, attempting to wrestle control of the lower part of Manningham. Unfortunately their brutal tactics came up against two nights of molotovs, rocks and burning cars... not simply in anger, but in defence.

The second half of the programme went on to show local mullahs, elders and business owners became complicit in 'Operation Wheel', a sweep of the city using police photographs to track down anyone and everyone who had the slightest thing to do with the riots. In the aftermath of the riots seeing the 'Asian' and 'Muslim' community as homogenous blocs was a lot more difficult, as expressed in the programme, where the small business owning middle classes, along with the religious leaders poured scorn on those involved with the fighting, and sought to win credit with the police by handing in family members, friends and people who they recognised.

Bradford Riots is definitely worth watching. It manages to be both moving and informative and the racism explored in it is something that should be remembered 5 years on. It portrays a political story whilst not forgetting the personal implications of the events and doesn't fall into the trap of either demonising or patronising Muslims.

***Bradford Riots* is out now on DVD**

By James R. Leeds

SYRIANA DVD

Syriana is a film with George Clooney (wait, don't stop reading yet!) based on the biography of an ex CIA agent based in the Middle East. The director, Steven Gaghan also wrote the screenplay for the drug trade thriller

Traffic which looked at how the drug trade affected everyone from producers, to users, to the narcotics cops and so on.

Syriana is very similar. There are 4 different plots, each one set in a different country, with different characters but all of them are intertwined, showing how the production of Oil in the middle east and the reliance on it in the West affects the lives of everyone.

The film deals with the mega-bucks business deals that go on behind the scenes, the work of poor Pakistani immigrant labourers, the political machinations of the CIA and the power struggles themselves that go on in the Middle East between different sheiks and capitalists. The conflict that plays out across the screen between the Islamic fundamentalists on the one hand, preying on the fears and feeling of powerlessness of the poor in the region, and the 'ideals' of the imperialists and businessmen as they make



deals in Washington that affect the lives of millions. Whilst the movie does have a couple of characters that seem a bit too idealistic, and therefore in this context, unrealistic, the main thrust of the

movie (that a contract signed in Texas causes a suicide bombing in Omar) is that everything is connected, that the world of business controls everything. The different plots run alongside each other, neatly resolving into a nail biting, and explosive crescendo.

Syriana does not have a socialist message or even anti-capitalist message but the impact of the movie is in the sheer powerful portrayal of the corruption inherent to the oil industry and with it (although it isn't said) of capitalism. Everyone is out to get something, they weave a tangled web that results in the kind of events you see on the news, but *Syriana* gives the backstory to who, how and why.

***Syriana* is out on DVD now**

By Simon H. Leeds

Huge demonstration against the Israeli war on Lebanon

Last Saturday, Revo UK joined protestors from across the country gathered in London to demonstrate against the military offensive Israel has been carrying out against Lebanon over the last three weeks. The demonstration was lively, militant and attended by around 100,000 protestors, including socialists, trade unionists and many Muslims.

This excellent turn out was achieved despite the demonstration only being called at the last minute during the summer holidays and had only been announced a week in advance as a response to Israel's horrific bombardment of Lebanon.

The death of around a thousand civilians, destruction of basic infrastructure and calls for ethnic cleansing in South Lebanon obviously made people angry enough to come at the last minute and show their disgust at these crimes being carried out by the Israeli state with American and British backing.

The demonstration began in Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park. We leafleted and sold our paper at the beginning, raising with everyone we met the need to give active solidarity with all the Hezbollah fighters heroically holding back the Israeli forces. We gathered our contingent with red REVOLUTION flags behind the banner we made for the demo: "Lebanon - Palestine - Iraq - Afghanistan - VICTORY TO THE RESISTANCE!"

One or two people heckled us with 'so you are

supporting the Taliban'. Our response, was simple; "so would you not fight to repel the British invasion of Afghanistan if you were facing the daily brutalities of colonial occupation?" To which the hecklers did not offer a response- how could you after all? It is only by taking part in the struggle for national self determination in Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon and Afghanistan that revolutionaries can win the masses to the goals of socialism and revolution.

On the whole though the demonstration had a great internationalist spirit to it, with many people chanting in solidarity with the resistance. "Hezbollah we're with you" was a popular chant and as we marched past the US embassy our Revo contingent led the boos and jeers, the chants of 'George Bush: terrorist' and 'Israel a war to far - victory to Hezbollah'.

A whole series of demonstrations are planned in the weeks ahead culminating in a demonstration on September 23rd in Manchester outside the Labour Party Conference which is part of a global day of action against the war. We need to build a massive anti-imperialist contingent on this demonstration, show our active and unconditional solidarity with the resistance and fight to turn these great struggles towards socialist revolution against global capitalism.

By Luke and Nat in London

sweatshops • discrimination •
poverty • sexism • war •

politicians • racism • boredom • police • big business
• exploitation • oppression • Tony Blair • homophobia
• unfair laws • third world debt • unemployment •
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WHAT WE STAND FOR

The Independent on Sunday got it right in an "expose" of REVOLUTIONs involvement in organising May Day 2001. It said: "REVOLUTION wants to build a revolutionary socialist mass movement and overthrow capitalism." Exactly right. We are opposed to capitalism and the misery, alienation, war and environmental destruction it creates.

We fight all forms of discrimination and oppression, whether on grounds of sex, race, nationality or sexuality.

Capitalism is a global system, so we have to fight it globally. We want to smash the borders and divisions of nations and move forward to a truly global and united humanity, without bigotry, war and class division. We stand shoulder to shoulder with our sisters and brothers in the Third World struggling to break free of the trillion dollar debt, the IMF, WTO and NATO.

We are socialists - we want to abolish capitalism and replace it with a planned economy. But we do not believe that the capitalist elite will allow their wealth and privilege to be voted out of existence. We believe it will take force to take the power and property away from the few and redistribute into the hands of the many - that means a revolution!

REVO wants young people to participate in radical politics and organise themselves. Young people can be very radical and militant, the anti war movement proved that. They should take a lead in the movement that will shape the struggle for the future.

We believe a mass movement must be built based on the support of the majority of the people - the working class. It is the working class that produces all the wealth in this society. The working class has no interest in keeping capitalism going. Only the working class has the power, the size and the traditions of organisation to bring this rotten system crashing down.

JOIN US!